

Funding Attached as Part of Interior-Environment Appropriations Bill, Passed Yesterday by Full Vote of the House of Representatives

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Washington, DC—Congressman Tim Ryan (OH-17), a Member of the House Appropriations Committee, secured \$300,000 to improve water and waste infrastructure in Trumbull County. The program will provide financial assistance to residents who are unable to provide or generate the necessary capital to upgrade or replace their Home Sewage Treatment Systems (HSTS).

The Trumbull County Commissioners, the Trumbull County Planning Commission and the Trumbull County Board of Health have worked collaboratively over the last several years to identify a solution to the widespread problem facing a large number of Trumbull County residents; replacing costly Home Sewage Treatment Systems (HSTS) that are failing and have been identified as a public health nuisance. In 2008, the Trumbull County Health Department conducted over 5,000 residential sewage inspections and found 85% were failing.

“During an economy where finding cost-saving solutions are imperative, I am proud to have secured the funding for this important project,” said Congressman Tim Ryan. “The financial burden caused by replacing these systems is unavoidable, but this program will provide the assistance to those that need it.”

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These funds are included it a Nuisance Abatement Program as part of H.R. 2996, the Interior-Environment Appropriations bill that funds the Department of Interior and the Environmental Protection Agency.

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Trumbull County will administer this revolving fund, available to residents who do not qualify for local Linked Deposit funding, and who cannot generate the required capital to upgrade or replace their failing HSTS's, which can cost \$15,000 or more. The Nuisance Abatement Fund will provide for a designated funding source in Trumbull County to upgrade or replace failing HSTS's and place the construction costs on the participating resident's tax bill. That special assessment can be used to repay the 1% state loan Trumbull County will obtain as the 45% match for the State & Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG).

The conference report on the Interior-Environment Appropriations bill, passed yesterday by the House of Representatives, is subject to action by the Senate and will require a signature of the President.

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